Construction of godowns

†3295. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project worth Rs.40.29 crores from Bihar State storage corporation for construction of godowns in different districts are lying pending with Government;

(b) if so, by when it is expected to be sanctioned; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Procurement of rice instead of paddy

3296. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA': Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to procure rice and not paddy henceforth from the farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, whether there is any such proposal under consideration; and

(d) if so, how the adverse implications of this policy to the farmers would be taken care of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) No decision has been taken by the Government not to procure paddy by the FCI during the ensuing Kharif Marketing Season.

Opium poppy crop

3297. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and the United States have signed an agreement for joint survey of country's illicit opium poppy crop:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.